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REMARKS

The Office Action dated March 7, 2006 has been received and considered. In this response, claims 24 and 33 have been amended to address antecedent basis issues. Support for the amendments may be found in the specification and drawings as originally filed. Reconsideration of the outstanding rejections in the present application is respectfully requested based on the following remarks.

Allowability of Claims 1, 3-7, 9, 11-15, 17-20, 22, 23, 25-27, 29-30 and 38-42

The Applicants note with appreciation the indication at page 5 of the Office Action that claims 1, 3-7, 9, 11-15, 17-20, 22 and 23 are allowed, and that claims 25-27 and 29-30 recite allowable subject matter. The Applicants have opted to forgo rewriting claims 35-37 and 29-30 as suggested in view of the remarks set forth below. Applicants also note with appreciation the previous indication in the Office Action of October 5, 2005 that claims 38-42 are allowed.

Indefinite Rejection of Claims 28, 31 and 33

At page 2 of the Office Action, claims 28, 31 and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 24, from which claims 28, 31, and 33 depend, and claim 33 have been amended to address the antecedent basis issues identified by the Examiner. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Obviousness Rejection of Claims 24, 28, 32, 34-37

At page 2 of the Office Action, claims 24, 28, 32, and 34-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Betrisey et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,360,023) in view of Admitted Prior Art (APA). This rejection is hereby respectfully traversed.

Claim 24 recites receiving an absolute alpha value, wherein the absolute alpha value represents a position, within a first range of alpha values, relative to a first source pixel. This element is not disclosed or suggested by Betrisey. Betrisey discloses a method for displaying a character on a display screen by changing "alpha values" associated with the relative luminous intensity of the character and the character background. *Betrisey*, col. 3, lines 18-64. According to Betrisey,

PATENT

Alpha values indicate the proportion of the foreground and the background color which contribute to the image area to which the alpha value corresponds. In the known system a single alpha value is generated for each pixel and is used to control the red, green and blue luminous intensity values of the pixel as a function of foreground and background colors which are subsequently applied.

Id., col. 3, lines 41-47 (emphasis added). Accordingly, the alpha values disclosed in Betrisey represent a *luminous intensity*, rather than a *position* of a pixel. Thus, because Betrisey fails to disclose an alpha value that represents a position, Betrisey necessarily fails to disclose receiving an absolute alpha value, *wherein the absolute alpha value represents a position*, within a first range of alpha values, relative to a first source pixel as recited in claim 24.

Claim 24 also recites normalizing the amplified alpha value to generate a normalized alpha value so that the normalized alpha value *represents a position* of a re-sampled pixel relative to the first range of alpha values. As explained, Betrisey fails to disclose or suggest an alpha value that represents the position of a pixel. Accordingly Betrisey necessarily fails to disclose or suggest this element of claim 24.

Claims 28, 32, and 34-37 depend from claim 24. Accordingly, Betrisey fails to disclose or suggest each and every element of these claims, at least by virtue of their dependence on claim 24. In addition, these claims recite additional novel elements.

In view of the forgoing, it is respectfully submitted that the obviousness rejection of claims 24, 28, 32, and 34-37 is improper. Withdrawal of this rejection and reconsideration of the claims therefore is respectfully requested.

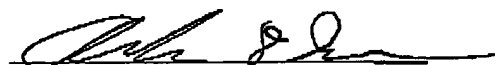
Conclusion

The Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance, and an early indication of the same is courteously solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone at the below listed telephone number in order to expedite resolution of any issues and to expedite passage of the present application to issue, if any comments, questions, or suggestions arise in connection with the present application.

PATENT

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees, which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 50-0441.

Respectfully submitted,



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